

JAP20 FEB 2006 13 ZU JAN 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned Confirmation No. Not Yet Assigned

Applicant : Hajime KIMURA, et al.

Filed : 01/20/06

TC/A.U. : Not Yet Assigned

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Docket No. : 101437.57334US

Customer No. : 23911

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attached Form PTO-1449 lists documents which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

I. Time Period of Submission

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or 2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later) or 3) before a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination, and therefore no statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

2) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action closing prosecution (*Ex parte Quayle*), (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith:

- a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); or
 a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

3) after either a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith:

a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); and
a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

II. Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or

I hereby state that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

III. Submission of Non-English Language Documents

The following is a concise explanation of relevance of the non-English language documents listed in the attached Form PTO-1449:

The relevance of _____ to the subject matter of the present invention is provided in the specification of the above-identified application.

A copy of a PCT Search Report for the corresponding Japanese priority application, together with an English-language version(s) (if not already in English) of that portion of the report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is submitted.

English language family member publication(s) of document(s) JP 56-27801 is/are noted on Form PTO-1449.

English language abstracts are submitted for the foreign language documents.

English translation(s) of the foreign language document(s) is/are submitted herewith.

Applicant submits the following explanations:
_____.

101437.57334US

IAP20 Receipt Date 20 JAN 2006

IV. Continuations/Divisionals/PCT National Stage Applications

Documents _____ were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on == in parent application Serial No. _____, from which this application claims a benefit.

Copies of document(s) listed on the attached form PTO-1449 have already been provided by the International Searching Authority, therefore, duplicate copies are not attached hereto.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

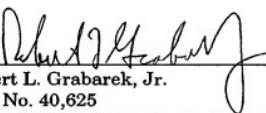
If necessary, this paper should be considered as an authorization to charge Deposit Account 05-1323, Attorney Docket No.: 011235.57206US, for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Dated: January 20, 2006

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Attachments

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